CHARLES C. MARKS, JR.
151 MONTALVIN DRIVE
SAN PABLO, CA 94806-1138

5 November 1993

U.S. News & World Report
2400 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1196
Attn: Mr Peter W. Bernstein, Executive Editor

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

"A funny thing happened on the way to the forum," or in my case between the time I agreed to become a subscriber once again to USN&WR and the time that my first issue arrived with its accompanying invoice. I was told about and then read about an apparently adulatory review in your pages of a book by a Mr. Gerald Posner entitled for some reason Case Closed and touted as revealing the real facts about John Kennedy's assassination. I fear that your staff reviewer (s) have been had, and, as a result have done the readers who depend on USN&WR for accuracy and objectivity a dis-service.

It would appear, first off, that Mr. Posner had few or no credentials for undertaking a work of this size and on this subject. He appears at most to have spent only two and perhaps as little as one-year on this effort which is essentially a re-iteration of information in the Warren Commission volumes — much like Jim Bishop's work in 1968 —

interspersed with the results of some interviews that he (?) conducted in 1992/93, plus attacks on witnesses interviewed by other ~~others as~~ authors as mostly drunkards or mental cases. He appears to have quite a fixation in that regard.

Here, I will only ~~note~~ record some of the errors/problems I have noted in the first 29 pages of this 607 page work of art/artifice (?) A careful reading of the Warren Commission volumes would have eliminated all of these.

PAGES:

5, 17n, 19 1. He refers repeatedly to John Pic as Oswald's step-brother when they were in fact half-brothers with their mother, Marguerite, in common.

22 2. He refers to the Atsugi base as being located twenty miles west of Tokyo, when it is in fact closer to twenty-five miles southwest of Tokyo, and about ~~fifteen~~ 10 miles west of Yokohama. (TOWN OF ATSUGI IS 15 MILES W. OF YOKOH.)

23n 3. He refers to the death of Marine Martin Schrand at "Subic Bay" [Naval Base] in the Philippines when it in fact occurred at the separate Cubi Point Naval Air Station, some miles away.

29, 31 (twice each) 4. He repeatedly refers to Oswald's duty station in southern California after his return from Japan as El Toro, when it was in fact Santa Ana, a distinct and separate facility about six miles away.

5. He also has mixed quotes from Marines stationed in either Japan or Santa Ana together leading to possible confusion in time and relevance.

Now, it could be argued that these are relatively minor errors in what was intended to be a major work. (I will leave it to more knowledgeable students of the subject to critique the book's more important faults/shortcomings.) However, your reviewer(s) would have picked up on some of these mistakes if they had any knowledge of the topic themselves.

Since, unless we are directly acquainted with them, we can only know authors through their writings, we have to wonder about Mr. Posner's real knowledge, care, and truthfulness as these characteristics are displayed in Case Closed. To his chagrin, he may find that his approach to this vast subject area and his errors scattered throughout may lead to the opening of a case to enquire just who he is and where he is coming from. No real student of JFK's assassination would make such careless errors as the few I have listed above. Enough said.

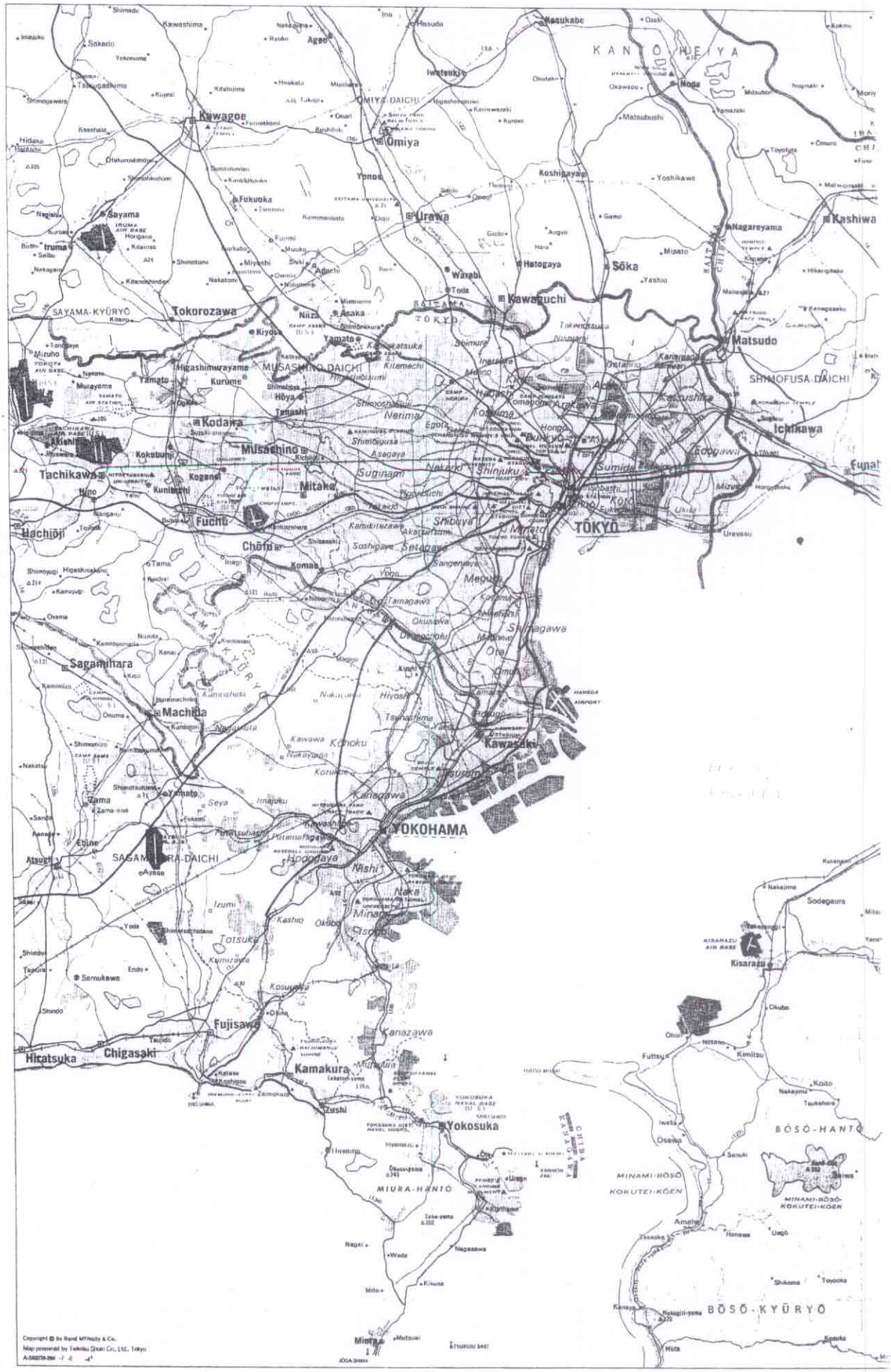
Since I have no desire to be associated, even as a subscriber, with a magazine that has handled this book review so ineptly, I am enclosing your invoice annotated "PLEASE CANCEL."

Yours truly

Charles C. Marks, Jr.

(Please enjoy attached maps.)

Tokyo—Yokohama


KANŌ HEIYA
Kawagoe
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Urawa
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Sayama
Iruma
Tokorozawa
SAYAMA-KYŪRYŌ
Kiyose
Niiza
Asaka
Yamato
Higashimurayama
Kurume
Kodaira
Kokubunji
Musashino
Koganei
Mitaka
Tachikawa
Kunitachi
Fuchū
Hachiōji
Chōfu
Komae
SAGAMI-KYŪRYŌ
Sagamihara
Machida
Yamato
Zama
Ayase
SAGAMIHARA-DAICHI
Atsugi
Ebina
Samukawa
Fujisawa
Hiratsuka
Chigasaki
Kamakura
Zushi
Yokosuka
MIURA-HANTŌ
Miura
Misaki
Kawaguchi
Matsudo
Ichikawa
Funabashi
Kashiwa
Nagareyama
Sōka
Koshigaya
Hatogaya
Wako
Toda
Asaka
Yono
Iwatsuki
Omiya-daichi
Musashino-daichi
Shimofusa-daichi
TŌKYŌ
Shinjuku
Shibuya
Setagaya
Meguro
Shinagawa
Ōta
Kawasaki
YOKOHAMA
Tsurumi
Kanagawa
Nishi
Naka
Minami
Isogo
Kanazawa
Totsuka
Izumi
Kisarazu
Sodegaura
Futtsu
Kimitsu
Ōtsu
Nitsima
Okubo
Koito
Tateyama
BŌSŌ-HANTŌ
Minami-Bōsō-kokutei-kōen
BŌSŌ-KYŪRYŌ
Tōgane
Mobara
Ichinomiya
Ōhara
Ōami
Hanawa
Ueno
Tōyooka
Kohara
Hota
Kosuka
Haneda Airport
Yokota Air Base
Iruma Air Base
Yokosuka Naval Base
Kisarazu Air Base
Tachikawa Air Base
Camp Zama
Camp Sagami
Camp Asaka
Camp Nerima
Camp Omagari
Camp Akabane
Camp Yokohama
Camp Hardy
Camp Kinuta
Camp Kawasaki
Camp Noge
Camp Matsubushi
Camp Yoshikawa
Camp Gamo
Camp Angyo
Camp Takamatsuka
Camp Nisburi
Camp Kanamachi
Camp Ayase
Camp Shimotomi
Camp Shimotoda
Camp Kitaakabane
Camp Kitashinden
Camp Kurihara
Camp Shimotono
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Camp Kasahata
Camp Hiraoka
Camp Shimojuku
Camp Tsukigashima
Camp Kuji
Camp Kitatajima
Camp Hisuda
Camp Ageo
Camp Ryoke
Camp Nakajima
Camp Shimadai
Camp Kawashima
Camp Sakado
Camp Imaizuku
Camp Yokosuka
Camp Kamiyokoda
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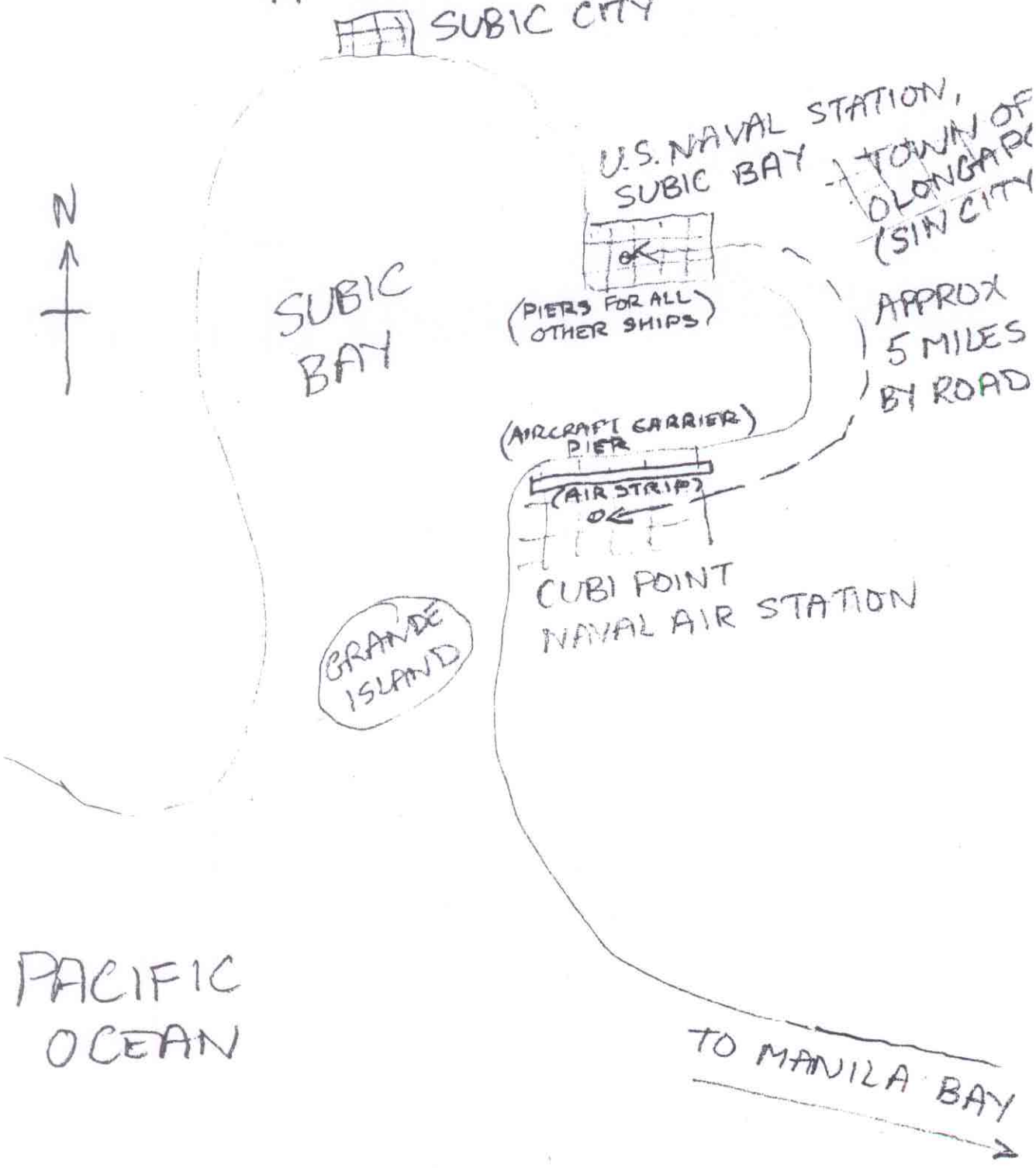
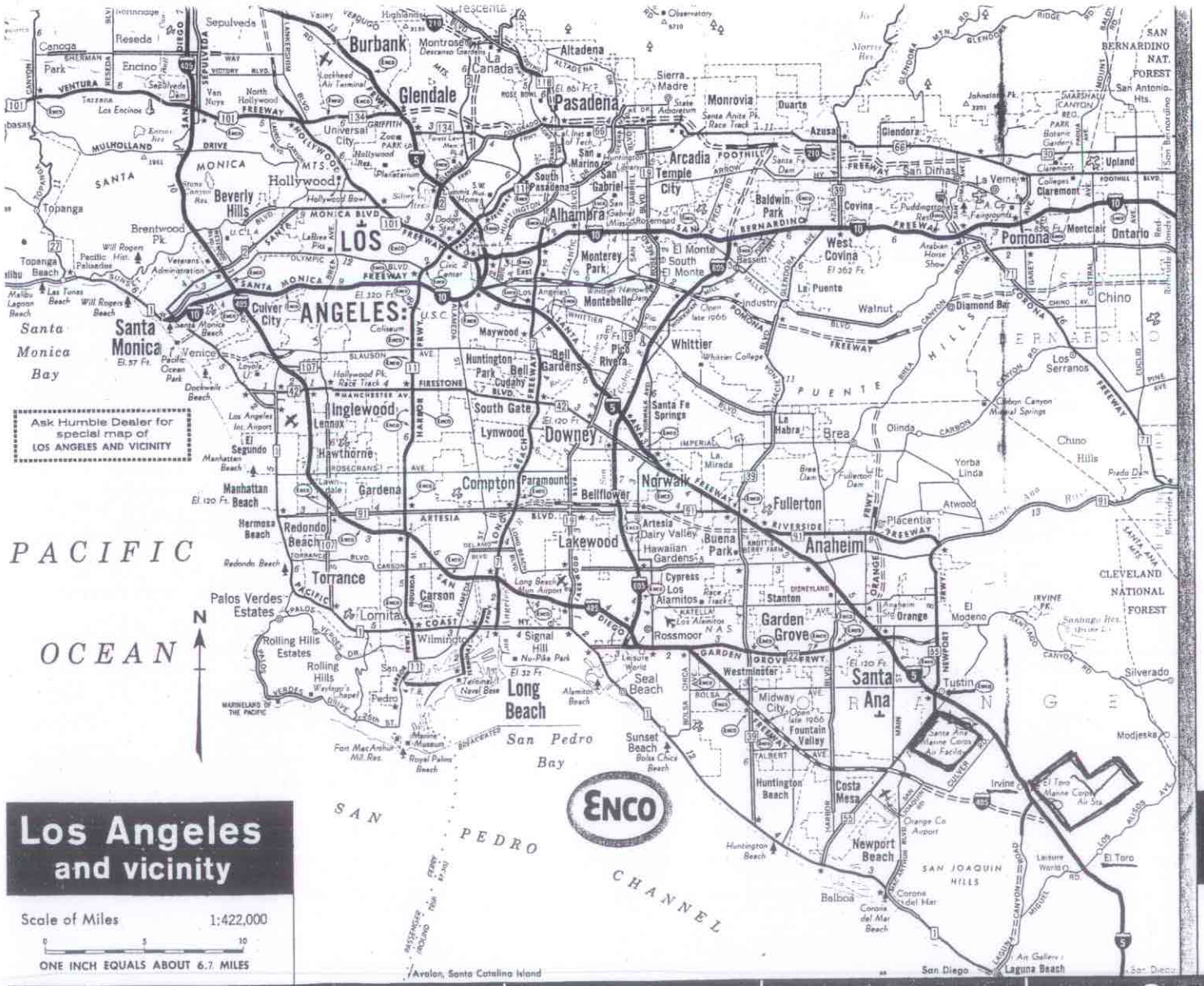
Camp Kamiyokoda

(nautical)

Sorry, I can't find my good chart of the Subic Bay area on Luzon in the R.P. Below is approximate:

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PACIFIC OCEAN
Santa Monica Bay
SAN PEDRO CHANNEL
San Pedro Bay
Los Angeles and vicinity
Scale of Miles 1:422,000
ONE INCH EQUALS ABOUT 6.7 MILES
Avalon, Santa Catalina Island
ENCO

PACIFIC OCEAN
San Diego and vicinity
Scale of Miles 1:200,000
ONE INCH EQUALS ABOUT 3.2 MILES

M N O P Q R